UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.182/L.89/Add.1
30 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE
OF THE ORGANIZATION
27 January-7 February 1997

INFORMAL WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Some views on the importance of and urgent need for the elaboration of a draft declaration on the basic principles and criteria for the work of United Nations peacekeeping missions and mechanisms for the prevention and settlement of crises and conflicts

1. In the course of the Special Committee's discussion of the draft declaration on the basic principles and criteria for the work of United Nations peacekeeping missions and mechanisms for the prevention and settlement of crises and conflicts, a number of delegations expressed the wish to clarify the goal of and the need for the draft declaration and to set forth, to the extent possible, their views on this matter in writing in order to help the Governments of the States that are members of the Special Committee to determine their positions on the question.

2. Responding in a positive manner to this wish, we feel that it is possible to make the following observations.

3. The basic goal in elaborating a draft declaration is to place the prevention and settlement of crises and conflicts on a more solid normative basis, develop and concretize a number of general provisions in the Charter of the United Nations and take account of the useful experience acquired by the United Nations over the more than half century of its work in this area. The declaration could confirm the principles and criteria in effect, which are set forth separately in various United Nations documents, and unify them, summarize and systematize the practice of the functioning of United Nations peacekeeping missions, instruments and mechanisms and thereby make a substantial contribution to the further development of the Organization's anti-crisis potential in accordance with its Charter. The proposed draft declaration deals not with some sort of single concrete mechanism for preventing and settling conflicts, but

rather with the total number of such mechanisms, of course, while maintaining the specific characteristics of each of them, and with the formulation of the fundamental basic principles and criteria for their establishment and functioning, while retaining the main responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

4. The declaration is needed by the States Members of the United Nations that provide the personnel and logistical support for the mechanisms. States must have a clear idea about the goals for which the mechanisms are set up, the principles and standards for their formation, the legal, political, financial and other implications of their possible participation in the mechanisms, and the level of the risk posed to the lives of personnel sent by them and so forth. All these questions are being actively discussed in the parliaments and governmental and public circles of States. The declaration would help to eliminate or minimize the concerns and critical observations put forward.

5. The provisions of the declaration could prove useful to the Security Council in drawing up the mandates of the mechanisms and monitoring their activities. It stands to reason that the discretionary powers of the Security Council would be fully maintained in this regard.

6. The declaration could be of practical interest also for the Secretariat, which would plan, prepare and carry out the activities of the mechanisms.

7. The ideas set forth in the draft declaration might prove to be useful also to numerous regional organizations and structures by representing an original model and standard as they draw up their own rules and criteria for establishing regional peacekeeping mechanisms and institutes.

8. The declaration would contribute to efforts to carry out the task provided for under the Charter of the United Nations (art. 13) of encouraging the progressive development of international law, adapting the Charter to the changing conditions in the development of international relations and concretizing the general principles and provisions of the Charter.

9. The declaration would be of great importance in informing, through the mass media, world public opinion, and the parliaments and Governments of States about the basic principles and standards of United Nations peacekeeping activities, thereby making it possible to diminish and even eliminate the not infrequent suspicion and at times negative attitude with regard to the steps and actions taken by the United Nations in the field of peacekeeping and enhancing the Organization's authority and role in world affairs.